

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 H-01

EB-04 /058 W

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R 131700Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 116

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, US, GE

SUBJ: GDR MEDIA REACTION TO U.S. ELECTIONS

1. U.S. ELECTIONS HAVE ELICITED NO MORE THAN ROUTINE ATTENTION FROM EAST GERMAN PRESS. THRUST OF TWO MAJOR EDITORIALS TO DATE IS THAT REPUBLICAN LOSS STEMMED STRICTLY FROM DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, WATERGATE AND INCREASING ECONOMIC BURDENS, NOTABLY STEADILY WORSENING INFLATION. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND), OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SED, INTERPRETED LOW VOTER PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION AS "AN AVALANCHE OF DISTRUST" BY DISILLUSIONED AMERICAN CITIZENS. ND COMMENTED THAT THIS PERSISTENT LOSS OF TRUST IN "PROMISES OF IMPERIALISM" WAS PROBABLY MOST REMARKABLE RESULT OF 1974 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION.

2. BERLINER ZEITUNG (BZ) TOOK LINE THAT NEITHER OF AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTERED SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS--REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP WAS UNHAPPY BECAUSE PARTY SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF SEATS, WHILE

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DEMOCRATS, EVEN THOUGH THEY EMERGED AS CLEAR VICTOR AT

POLLS, WERE EQUALLY DISINCLINED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLUTION OF URGENT PROBLEMS FACING US. THUS, FACED WITH REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP WHICH PUBLICLY CONSIGNED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO DEMOCRATIC-DOMINATED CONGRESS OF QUESTIONABLE WILL, AVERAGE CITIZEN WAS NATURALLY EMBITTERED AND DISAPPOINTED. BZ CONCLUDED ITS COMMENTARY BY SAYING THAT, DESPITE LOW VOTER TURN OUT, NOT ALL AMERICANS WERE APATHETIC ABOUT ECONOMIC SITUATION: MANY WERE PREPARING TO ASSERT THEIR DISPLEASURE BY STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. ND DEMOCRATS, DESPITE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN HOUSE, WOULD BE UNABLE TO ENFORCE PARTY DISCIPLINE IN OVERRIDING PRESIDENT FORD'S VETOES BECAUSE TRADITIONAL BLOC OF SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS AND CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS WOULD CONTINUE TO DOMINATE VOTING PATTERN. ND CONCLUDED ITS COMMENTARY BY EXPRESSING REGRET THAT SENATOR FULBRIGHT, WHOM IT DESCRIBED AS "ONE OF MOST DISTINCT PERSONALITIES AND A POLITICIAN WITH SENSE OF REALITIES" WOULD NOT BE RETURNING TO SENATE.

4. COMMENT: GDR COMMENTARIES TO DATE HAVE BEEN NOTABLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT ASCRIBING ANY FOREIGN-POLICY CAUSES OR CONSEQUENCES TO ELECTION RESULTS. RATHER, EDITORIALISTS SEEM CONTENT TO PORTRAY ELECTIONS AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF DOMESTIC CRISIS IN THE WEST, AND PARTICULARLY IN US--AN INCREASINGLY POPULAR THEME IN RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS BY GDR LEADERSHIP.

5. DECONTROL 12/31/75.SELIGMANN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 13 NOV 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USBERL02086
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740327-0881
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741145/aaaabmgq.tel
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